



# Water Wisdom

*Because Every Drop Counts!*



Issue 2

## Conservation Outdoors

Since most household water is used outside, we'd like to focus on simple ways to reduce outdoor water use in this issue. According to the Regional Water Authority, the average household in the Sacramento region uses about 380 gallons of water a day. 65% of that, 250 gallons, is used outside. Over half the water used for irrigation ends up wasted due to evaporation, wind, and overwatering. Making water wise choices outdoors can help you lower your water bills.



### **The current, *mandatory* watering restrictions include:**

- Outdoor irrigation is permitted between 10 pm and 5 am, for a maximum of 3 times per week. Even addresses water on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday. Odd addresses water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
- All hoses for non-irrigation purposes must be equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- Runoff from irrigation and hosing off hard surfaces (such as driveways and sidewalks) is prohibited.

### **Some quick tips to help you make the most of your outdoor water budget:**

- Use drip irrigation wherever possible in your landscape to reduce waste from evaporation.
- Check irrigation heads frequently for damage and adjust as needed to make sure that they are watering the landscape and not the sidewalk or driveway.
- Do a "push test" before you water. If you can push an 8-inch screwdriver at least 3 inches into the lawn, then it doesn't need to be watered.
- When setting your sprinklers, try starting with 10 minutes per zone and then reduce a few minutes at a time to see how little you can use. You can also find a great tool to help you customize your sprinklers at <http://beyondthedrought.com/index2.php>.
- Sweep dust and dirt from sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them off.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash instead of washing it yourself. Commercial washes recycle wash water and use less per car.
- Set your lawnmower blade to 3 inches to encourage deeper roots.
- Install a "smart" irrigation controller to make the most of your irrigation system.

***Coming soon—Drought Update***